NHS
Suffolk and
North East Essex

Suffolk and North East Essex (SNEE) Policy on Diabetic lancets

Summary

The Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care System (SNEE ICS) does not support the prescribing of diabetic lancets costing >£3 per 100.

Selection of cost-effective lancets

- Only prescribe lancets that cost less than £3 per 100 lancets.
- Prescribe appropriate quantities.
- Lancets are for single use only.

SNEE preferred lancets are GlucoRx® Lancets - these include a lancing device with each box negating the requirement to issue a new lancing device.

Professional Responsibilities

Healthcare professionals should educate and support patients with Diabetes Mellitus (DM) regarding:

- Correct usage of lancets and lancing devices.
- Frequency of blood glucose monitoring (including patients in whom regular monitoring is not necessary).
- Shelf life, appropriate storage, and disposal of lancets.
- Current DVLA requirements.

Self-monitoring of blood glucose levels is essential for DM patients who are insulin dependent. Self-monitoring may also be appropriate for patients who are taking other medicines that can cause hypoglycaemia, e.g., sulfonylureas

Restrictions to Prescribing of Lancets

- Do **not** prescribe any lancets costing >£3 per 100 unless specifically advised to do so by diabetes specialist nurses at ESNEFT or WSFT.
- 'Safer sharps' are medical sharps (including safety lancets) that incorporate features or mechanisms to prevent or minimise the risk of accidental injury.
- **Do not** prescribe safety lancets on FP10 for use by health and social care professionals or employees of the health and social care sector; the employer has a legal obligation to provide safer sharps under current Health and Safety regulations[1,2,3]

Exceptions

Safety needles should only be prescribed on FP10 for the following exceptional circumstances:

- For use by people who are not health and social care professionals and are not employees in the health and social care sectors but are finger pricking a patient **and there is a risk of disease transmission (e.g., HIV and hepatitis)**.

At time of publishing, the most cost-effective safety needles for exceptional circumstances are Neon Verifine® Safety Lancets 1.8mm/23G, 1.8mm/28G, 1.8mm/30G, 2.4mm/21G

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Other useful information
• Lancets are available in different sizes, the higher the gauge, the smaller the diameter of the lancet. • Lancets should be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's storage instructions.

Further support

Patients who wish to seek further clarification can be directed to PALS on pals@suffolk.nhs.uk or 0800 389 6819 or

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich
IP1 2BX

References

1. Health and Safety Executive - Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013: A guide for employers and employees HSIS7 (hse.gov.uk)
2. Sharps safety - RCN Guidance to support the implementation of The Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare Regulations) 2013 Sharps safety| Royal College of Nursing (rcn.org.uk)
3. Care Quality Commission - Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 Legislation - Care Quality Commission (cqc.org.uk)